



ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM

ACUB

FORT RILEY ACUB



The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program creates land conservation partnerships between the Army and outside organizations to protect land from development that is incompatible with the military mission.

INSTALLATION BACKGROUND

Located on just over 100,000 acres in northeast Kansas, Fort Riley provides an Army-wide strategic training capability. The installation provides training assistance to more than 30,000 Reserve Component Soldiers including the Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserves, Navy Reserves, Marine Reserves, Reserve Officer Training Corps, Air Guard, and those conducting individual training or attending schools. Fort Riley has the capability to host live fire exercises, maneuver training for mechanized/armored vehicles, attack helicopter gunnery, small arms firing, artillery and tank firing exercises, as well as engineer obstacles.

Smoke and noise generated by heavy weapon fire, demolitions and rotary-winged aircraft operation are the primary off post impacts to the nearby commercial airport and residential areas. Several workarounds are currently required on post in order to train at the battalion task force level. Complaints from local residents have imposed restrictions on the times and types of training. If growth-related encroachment continues near the borders of Fort Riley, current and future mission requirements will likely succumb to further restrictions.

In addition to the challenge of residential complaints, Fort Riley must also assist in the protection of several species of concern that inhabit the region. The endangered topeka shiner is found in streams on and around the installation. Candidate species in the area include the regal fritillary, Henslow's Sparrow, and the Greater Prairie Chicken. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) were to list any of these species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Fort Riley would be given a role in the recovery effort, and further restrictions on training activities would be imposed.

For more information

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OBJECTIVE

The Fort Riley ACUB program is protecting and enhancing the installation's mission readiness by preventing incompatible land use along the installation boundary. The project also promotes conservation initiatives to protect topeka shiner streams and grassland bird habitat in the region. The Fort Riley ACUB program has initiated a long-term plan to minimize encroachment impacts and prepare for increased mission requirements due to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) requirements.

PRIMARY PARTNER: KANSAS LAND TRUST

The objective of the Kansas Land Trust is to protect and preserve lands of ecological, scenic, historic, agricultural, and recreational significance in Kansas. Through the ACUB partnership, the Kansas Land Trust is targeting the grasslands off the installation which connect to the grasslands on Fort Riley. These lands are owned by many private landowners and are currently dominated by open space uses. Through the ACUB program the partnership is working to keep these lands in their current state. For more information on the Kansas Land Trust, visit <http://www.klt.org/>.



For more information on ACUB accomplishments,
funding and other stakeholders
please view the ACUB website at
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/acub/acub00.html>

